



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 265

January Session, 2017

Substitute House Bill No. 7210

House of Representatives, March 28, 2017

The Committee on Environment reported through REP. DEMICCO of the 21st Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT PROVIDING MUNICIPAL OPTIONS FOR DOG LICENSING.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 22-338 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2017*):

3 (a) (1) Each owner or keeper of a dog of the age of six months or
4 older, except dogs kept under a kennel license as provided in section
5 22-342, shall cause such dog to be licensed in the town clerk's office in
6 the town where such dog is kept, on or before June thirtieth, annually,
7 or at such time as such dog becomes six months old, and annually
8 thereafter, on or before June thirtieth. The owner or keeper shall pay to
9 such town clerk for such license the sum of seven dollars for each
10 neutered male or spayed female dog and the sum of twelve dollars for
11 each unneutered male dog and each unspayed female dog, and one
12 additional dollar in each case as the town clerk's fee for issuing a tag
13 and license as provided in section 22-340. Two dollars from each
14 license fee collected for a neutered or spayed dog shall be deposited
15 into the animal population control account, established under section

16 22-380g. If an owner or keeper of a dog fails to procure a license as
17 required by this section, such owner or keeper shall pay the
18 appropriate license fee specified in this section, the town clerk's fee
19 and a penalty of one dollar for each month or fraction thereof the dog
20 remains unlicensed.

21 (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (1) of this
22 subsection, a town may provide for the licensure of dogs on a biennial
23 or triennial basis provided such license shall not be for a term that
24 exceeds the term of such dog's most recent rabies vaccination. In the
25 event that a town elects to require such licensure on a biennial basis,
26 the dollar amounts specified in subsection (a) of this section shall be
27 doubled and in the event that a town elects to require such licensure
28 on a triennial basis, the dollar amounts specified in subsection (a) of
29 this section shall be tripled.

30 (b) Any owner or keeper applying for a license for a dog under
31 subsection (a) of this section, except for those owners or keepers
32 possessing a rabies vaccination exemption certificate, or a copy thereof,
33 issued pursuant to section 22-339b, shall submit to the town clerk a
34 rabies certificate signed by a licensed veterinarian, or a copy thereof,
35 stating that such dog has been vaccinated against rabies, the date of the
36 vaccination and the duration of the immunity provided by the vaccine.
37 No license shall be issued unless the certificate indicates that the
38 immunity provided by the vaccine is effective at the time of licensing.

39 (c) Any owner or keeper applying for a license for a dog pursuant to
40 subsection (a) of this section that has been exempted from vaccination
41 against rabies pursuant to section 22-339b shall submit to the town
42 clerk a rabies vaccination exemption certificate issued by the
43 department, or a copy thereof, in lieu of a rabies certificate.

44 (d) This section shall not apply to any dog which is imported into
45 this state for exhibition purposes and which does not remain in this
46 state for more than thirty days. Any person may import, from another
47 state, any licensed dog with collar, tag and rabies vaccination
48 certificate, and keep the same in this state for not more than thirty

49 days, without complying with the provisions of this section.

50 Sec. 2. Subsection (b) of section 22-339a of the general statutes is
51 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
52 *October 1, 2017*):

53 (b) Any person acquiring an unlicensed dog from a dog pound shall
54 be issued a temporary license by the town clerk, or his agent deputized
55 pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, which shall expire thirty days
56 after the issuance thereof. Prior to the expiration of a temporary
57 license, the person holding the license shall apply for a license for the
58 remainder of the license [year] period, as provided in section 22-338, as
59 amended by this act, pay the appropriate license fee specified in
60 section 22-338, as amended by this act, and submit a certificate signed
61 by a veterinarian, or a copy thereof, stating (1) that the dog has been
62 vaccinated against rabies, (2) the date of the vaccination and, (3) the
63 duration of the immunity provided by the vaccine. No license shall be
64 issued unless the certificate indicates that the immunity provided by
65 the vaccine is effective at the time of licensing.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>October 1, 2017</i>	22-338
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2017</i>	22-339a(b)

ENV *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: See Below

Municipal Impact: See Below

Explanation

The bill potentially shifts the revenue gained by municipalities via the issuance of dog licenses from an annual revenue gain to a biennial or triennial revenue gain. It does so by allowing municipalities to issue such licenses on a biennial or triennial basis and, correspondingly, doubling or tripling the fees for such licenses.

As a portion of dog license fees are remitted to the state, the bill also results in a similar revenue shift of revenue to the non-appropriated Animal Population Control Account (APCA).¹

The bill also makes technical and conforming changes which do not result in a fiscal impact.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact described above would continue into the out years subject to the number of dog licenses issued.

¹ The APCA is a non-appropriated account of the General Fund, administered by the Department of Agriculture.

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 7210*****AN ACT PROVIDING MUNICIPAL OPTIONS FOR DOG LICENSING.*****SUMMARY**

This bill allows municipalities to issue dog licenses on a biennial or triennial basis, instead of annually, as the law currently requires, but the license term cannot exceed the term of a dog's most recent rabies vaccination. Fees charged for a two- or three-year license are double or triple, respectively, the annual fee currently charged.

By law, an owner or keeper of a dog that is six months or older must obtain a dog license from the town clerk annually by June 30. The license fee is \$7 for a neutered or spayed dog or \$12 for an unneutered or unspayed dog plus \$1 for the municipality to issue the tag and license. (By law, a \$6 surcharge is also collected on each license issued for an unneutered or unspayed dog. The surcharge is deposited into the animal population control account (CGS § 22-380l).)

The bill also makes technical and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2017

BACKGROUND***Dog Licensing Requirement***

When applying for a dog license, an owner or keeper must present a certificate signed by a licensed veterinarian documenting that the dog is currently vaccinated against rabies or exempt from such vaccination. The certificate must contain the date of the vaccination and the duration of the immunity it provides.

A dog owner or keeper who fails to license his or her dog must pay the appropriate fees to the town clerk plus a penalty of \$1 for each

month or portion thereof that the dog was unlicensed.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 29 Nay 0 (03/10/2017)